

TWO-WAY STREET

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in strong support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, a trade agreement that is a win-win for Illinois farmers, Illinois manufacturers, and Illinois workers that currently trades one way with Central America and the Caribbean.

In Illinois 40 percent of our farm production is exported, where right now under the Caribbean Basin Initiative 99 percent of the Caribbean and Central American farm products enter the United States duty-free, where Illinois corn faces a 20 percent tariff, Illinois soybeans face a 30 percent tariff, Illinois pork faces a 40 percent tariff. And, frankly, with DR-CAFTA we essentially wipe out those tariffs on Illinois products.

When it comes to manufacturing there are 151,000 jobs in my State dependent on exports; and under the current status quo 80 percent of manufactured goods, textiles for example, from the Caribbean and Central America enter Illinois and the United States duty-free while manufacturing goods from my district, apparel, textiles, bulldozers face tariffs of 14 percent up to 20 percent. Again, under DR-CAFTA those tariffs are eliminated immediately.

The status quo is not good for farmers. The status quo is not good for manufacturers because under the current status quo our products going to Central America, exported to Central America, suffer tariffs. Theirs come in duty-free.

Let us make this trade a two-way street. Vote yes for CAFTA. Help manufacturers, help farmers eliminate those duties on our products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 363 I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 364 I was detained on official business. Had I been present I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 363, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, As Amended for H. Con. Res. 168, Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; I would have voted "yea."

On July 11, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 364, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan; I would have voted "yea."

ENSURE AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS WITH CAFTA

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will ensure America's competitiveness in Central America and throughout the world, benefiting millions of American farmers, manufacturers and businesses of all sizes.

The CAFTA region currently imports \$15 billion annually of U.S. agriculture and manufactured goods. Combined, DR-CAFTA countries represent our thirteenth largest export market. DR-CAFTA will significantly increase exports and boost earnings for American farmers and manufacturers. Upon enactment, 80 percent of U.S. industrial consumer products will immediately become duty-free, leveling the playing field for U.S. producers who have long been at a competitive disadvantage with other countries with pre-existing trade agreements in the region.

The proposed agreement will also take important new steps to protect U.S. firms from unfair trading practices and elevate standards for workplace safety and environmental responsibility. DR-CAFTA legislation will also take important new steps to protect U.S. firms from unfair trading practices and elevate standards for workplace safety and environmental responsibility. DR-CAFTA legislation will be a catalyst for positive change in Central America, broadly opening new markets, supporting stability, and propelling emerging economies forward.

As history has proven, politically and economically stable neighbor nations are vital to our own national security interests.

OPEN MARKET ACCESS WITH CAFTA

(Mr. CHOCOLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the United States-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement and the benefits it will provide to hard working farmers in Indiana and all across this country.

Currently, the U.S. market is already fairly open to agricultural products from Central America and the Dominican Republic, but U.S. farmers face a variety of tariffs and other barriers when exporting to DR-CAFTA countries. This agreement will eliminate these barriers, reciprocate open market access, and put American farmers on a level playing field.

More than half of America's agricultural exports will receive immediate duty-free access to DR-CAFTA coun-

tries under this agreement. This agreement will provide U.S. farmers with unequalled access to a large market with growing incomes and a growing demand for agricultural and food products.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support American farmers and support this very important piece of legislation.

CAFTA IS NOT WORKING

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I sit here a bit incredulously listening to my colleagues brag about U.S. trade policy. The reason CAFTA has not come for a vote, even though it has been promised to have been brought forward four times, is because Democrats and Republicans and small manufacturers and labor and small ranchers and family farmers and environmentalists and religious leaders in Central America and religious leaders in this country oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Why? Because a dozen years ago we had a \$38 billion trade deficit in this country. Last year we had a \$618 billion trade deficit. That has translated into 3.5 million lost manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years alone.

Our trade policy, Mr. Speaker, simply is not working. It may be working for investors, but it is not working for farmers, it is not working for small business. It is not working for consumers and environmentalists and workers and for our communities.

FREE TRADE FLOW WITH CAFTA

(Ms. HART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the U.S.-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Upon its implementation DR-CAFTA will allow goods and services to be traded among these countries without tariffs or other trade barriers. Currently, the United States has significant barriers to those countries. Those countries do not have significant barriers into the United States.

The benefits of DR-CAFTA go well beyond the free movement of goods. This agreement will solidify the political enlightenment that has taken place over the past decade in Central America and the Dominican Republic. In the not so distant past communists and generals ruled the DR-CAFTA countries. Today freedom and democracy rule these lands.

DR-CAFTA will continue to enhance these fragile democracies by committing them to free and open economies and create new opportunities for their economies and workers. The agreement